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# BEEBLET

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BBC / ACORN

COMPUTER USER GROUP NZ (inc)

# EDITORIAL

No, you didn't miss the November Issue of *Beeblet*. By the beginning of November, when the magazine was about to be put together, we had only three pages of contributions, plus Index, Editorial, Service Agents and Dealers, and User Group Meetings. Hardly worth publishing, which is exactly what happened.

So this is a combined November/December issue; the next issue could be a bumper issue - if you send in contributions by the end of January 1987. Its up to you all.

It is suspected that many prospective contributors will only do so if approached personally. If *Beeblet* is dependent entirely on this system, then it will fail. We would like to do more in this area, but considerable time and expense is involved, with variable return and other work to be done.

Later in this issue is a message to individual User Groups. I hope the suggestion is taken up by a number of Groups - it could significantly change *Beeblet* making it more relevant to what each of you are doing.

> It is acknowledged that the final print size of the October *Beeblet* was a wee bit small. However, you did get your money's worth. If the October *Beeblet* had been formatted and reduced as is being done this month, it would have run to over 50 pages.

Finally, the *Beeblet* Editorial Committee wish to thank all who have contributed to *Beeblet* during 1986 and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very happy computing New Year.

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DISCLAIMER

The views of reviewers, contributors and/or Editorial committee are not necessarily shared by

THE BBC/ACORN COMPUTER USER GROUP NZ INC.

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**REMINDER:**

If you get a few moments to spare during the holiday period, give some thought to *Beeblet*, and rush off your contribution to be in our hands by the end of January. Maybe the February issue of *Beeblet* will be a Bumper Issue...........

# * * * WARNING * * *

# TO ALL MASTER 128 OWNERS

## REPLACEMENT BATTERY PACKS

A letter was received by Neil Gordon as a result of comments relating to Battery Packs for the Master 128, and is repeated here in full for the benefit of any readers who may have been considering taking Neil's advice:

Barson Computers NZ Ltd
AUCKLAND

Dear Neil,

I have just read your Master Matters column in the October issue of *Beeblet.*

In your comments about the Master battery pack, you state that you can simply replace the Lithium cell with three AA cells.

THIS IS NOT SO.

In fact to do so may physically damage your MASTER when the batteries run out. The packs supplied by Acorn have a circuit in the cables to prevent reverse charging. This is, in fact, the fix.... the changes in batteries makes up for the voltage loss after going through the protection circuit.

May I suggest you replace your battery pack with the pack emclosed IMMEDIATELY.

Please would you advise your readers NOT to implement the change as detailled in your article, and to contact me for their replacement packs which we will supply at no charge. Barson Computers will supply replacement packs irrespective of where the MASTER 128 was purchased.

Regards

(signed)

Tony Krzyzewski

...:::::::...

It is recommended that Master owners requiring battery packs accept Tony's offer as soon as practicable.

# MASTER SERIES THE RADICALLY NEW EDUCATIONAL COMPUTER FROM B.B.C.

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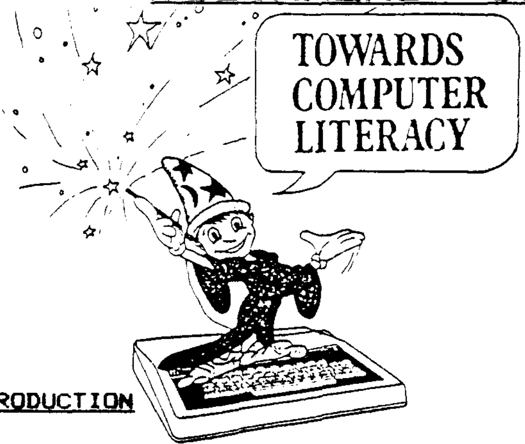
# BEGINNERS' COLUMN



By Neville Hudson

## INTRODUCTION

This month I hope to pick up on some of the loose ends from the two previous articles and to continue the development of the Menu program. Since last month I have added two further computers to my computer family namely the Master 128k and the Master Compact. Perhaps someone out there would like to pick up on these and write a beginners column for these two new and exciting computers. Remember if there is something you would like more information on or something which hasn't been covered and you would like it to be covered then drop me a line. Please address all correspondence relating to these articles to Beginners' Column. P.O. Box 9592, Wellington.

## MORE ON THE MENU PROGRAM

I hope you have been able to make good use of the menu program presented in the previous months articles. As promised I now want to improve the presentation.

LOAD in the !MENU. By pressing 'CTRL' and 'N' and then typing LIST the program will list one screen length. By pressing 'SHIFT' the program will scroll a bit at a time.

Press ESCAPE while line 300 is in the screen. This line governs the maximum number of programs which can be displayed on the menu. I have had up to 20 programs on the menu but to achieve this it may be necessary to increase the DIM statement. In this statement the F$ is the filename, the N$ is the name of the program and the D$ is the program description. Each number in the brackets must be changed to the same new number. It is possible to have more than 20 programs in the menu but it will not be possible to see them all as the menu will be longer than a screen length. SAVE the menu before continuing.

LIST the program again and press ESCAPE while line 1200 is on the screen. This line has the ability to alter the distance between the program name and the program description. To get the best display it is a matter of fine tunning between the two statements and the figure in the brackets after TAB in line 1200. The bigger the number the bigger the distance between the statements but the smaller amount of information that can be displayed in the program decription statement. Larger statements can be made to look quite presentable by using spaces to line the lines of the statement up with each other. Unfortunately I have not found any way to stop a statement using more than one line being displayed in white instead of colour.

A helpful tip to remember is that it is possible to go between the menu display and the program list by pressing ESCAPE while in the display and then type MODE7 and then LIST. Try it and see. Typing RUN will of course produce the menu display.

This completes the menu program for the time being. There is a modification which will produce speech with the menu but I will hold this in reserve for the time being. If you have some alterations to the menu program which you would like to share then please write in and let us all have the benefit of your experience.

## MORE ON USING DISCS

In the very first article I promised to explain more about the parts of the disc in a later article and now is the time.

DIRECTORY: The directory is a single character used to divide the catalogue into independent sections. Files of the same name can be created on the same disc with different directories. For example, although on the same side of a disc $.MYPROG is a different file from A.MYPROG because the directory is different. In the above example the directory is the first letter and full stop namely $. and A. The default directory is $.

CHAIN":0.$.FRED" would load and run a program on drive 0 from directory $ called FRED. If you catalogue one of your discs you may be able to see the filenames stored under different directories listed at the bottom of the catalogue.

LIBRARY: The disc filing system enables you to specify one drive/directory as the 'Library'. This will always be set to 0.$ (drive 0 directory $) when you start the computer or by pressing BREAK. It can be altered using the filing system command *LIB. until the next BREAK. For example *LIB:<drv>.<dir> sets the library option on the currently selected drive to transfer action to the desired drive and directory, e.g. if you ran a program on drive 0 which required access to a program from drive 1, directory A then you would enter the command *LIB:1.A

Note the use of ":" and "." as part of the file specification (fsp).

I hope this has removed some of the mystery about the library function. As you can see the computer will work perfectly well without you knowing what the library does but when you are ready to make use of this facility it will be waiting.

OPTION: Options enable you to set certain actions on the computer.

1. *OPT 0 0 The default (or start-up) condition.
2. *OPT 1 0 Disable the *INFO command.
3. *OPT 1 n n 0=enable *INFO.
4. *OPT 2 n Tape error detection.
5. *OPT 3 n Interblock gap command.
6. *OPT 4 0 Auto start option off.
7. *OPT 4 1 Load !BOOT file.
8. *OPT 4 2 Run machine code file !BOOT.
9. *OPT 4 3 Execute !BOOT file.

Options numbered 2 and 3 are used to prevent information about the files being disclosed to another user if you wish to protect your files. These commands may be included in your BASIC programs.

Options numbered 4 and 5 are only of importance for users trying to produce tapes that can be read by other computers and therefore not of use for the ordinary user.

Options numbered 6 and 7 are used to enable or disable the file !BOOT.

Option numbered 8 is used to enable loading of a machine code program placed in the !BOOT file.

Option numbered 9 is used to Execute commands contained in the !BOOT file as you have seen already in a previous article.

Note that the command to Execute the !BOOT file is written *OPT4 3 with a space between the 4 and the 3 or as *OPT4,3 and the other commands should be written in a similiar manner.

WILDCARD FACILITY: The wildcard facility is a method by which you can process a group of files with a similiar directory or filename. The symbols '*' and '#' are used. The symbol '#' is used to replace a single character and the symbol '*' to replace a group of characters.

For example if you had the following group of files:

```
$.HELLO
A.HELP
A.HELP2
```

then by using the command *.HE* you would be able to use the *COPY, *INFO, *DESTROY, *WIPE, *ACCESS commands to operate on all files starting with the letters 'HE' and in any directory.

Another example on the following group of files:

```
$.TEST
$.TENT
$.THAT
```

The command $.T##T would allow operations to be carried out on files in directory $ with filenames of four letters and with the first and fourth letter being a 'T'.

An example used in a previous article is *ACCESS !BOOT L which locked the !BOOT file. Using the command *ACCESS *.* L gives access to all filenames on all directories and locks them all.

For safety make sure you copy files to another disc to try and experiment further with these facilities.

## COMMON ABBREVIATIONS

There are many commands to remember and also most can be abbreviated. Many hours will be saved if you practice using abbreviations wherever you can.

| Full Command | Abbrev | Full Command | Abbrev |
|---|---|---|---|
| CHAIN | CH. | LIST | L. |
| LOAD | LO. | MODE | MO. |
| SAVE | SA. | | |
| *BACKUP | *BAC. | *CAT | *. |
| *COMPACT | *COM. | *COPY | *COP. |
| *DELETE | *DE. | *DRIVE2 | *DR.2 |
| *ENABLE | *EN. | *HELP | *H. |
| *INFO | *I. | *RENAME | *RE. |
| *RUN | *R. | *TYPE | *TY. |
| *VERIFY2 | *V.2 | | |

This is only a few of the possible abbreviations. A complete list can be found on pages 483 and 484 of the User Guide.

If your computer has resident ROMs then it may be necessary to add one more letter to some of the above abbreviations.

I will finish this months article at this point. I have had little to no feed back as to whether an article such as this still has a place in Beeblet. As I am setting up my own computer business in Wellington I don't have time to write an article that no one wants or needs. To enable me to tailor the article to meet your needs and/or to determine whether it is still required please let me know what you want from here on in.

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ROMs For Sale:

The following ROMs are for sale. The original instruction manual accompanies each ROM.

CARETAKER 1.03
GRAPHICS EXTENSION 2.09
PRINTMASTER (Epson) 1.02
DISC DOCTOR 1.09
GREMLIN 1.21
SLEUTH 1.05a

Don AUSTIN 6 Kupe Place TOKOROA Phone: 67 690

# SOFTWARE REVIEW

by Graeme Robertson, Tokoroa

## SHARE ANALYSER

Synergy Software,
7 Hillside Rd,
Harpenden,
Herts.,AL5 4BS9
ENGLAND

This package, available only by mail-order, provides a really useful tool for those interested in the sharemarket (which seems to be just about everyone these days!). At about $100, it is very good value for money indeed!

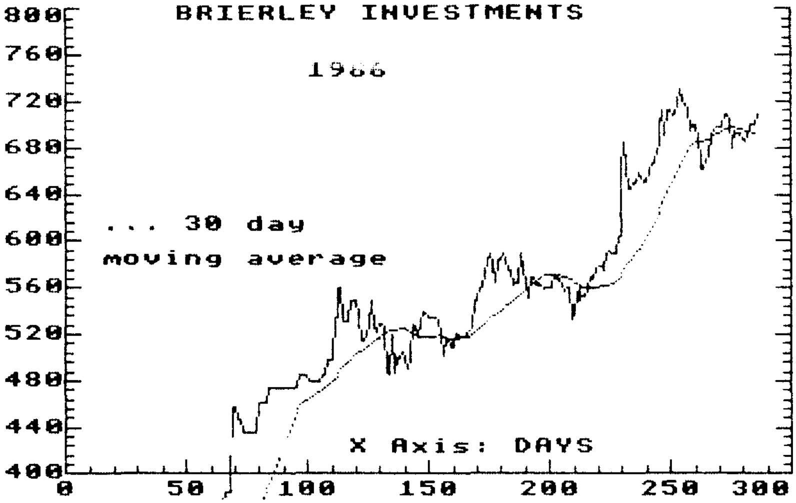
I began using my BBC to help my sharemarket activities by setting up some VIEWSHEET files, to record transactions and monitor share prices. While these can be adapted to do almost exactly what is wanted, I have now switched over entirely to the SHARE ANALYSER package (due mainly to its excellent plotting facility).

The system enables share prices to be recorded, adjusted subsequently for issues, bonuses etc, and charted in a variety of ways. If buy/sell information has been entered, then the profitability of single shares, or the entire portfolio, can be easily analysed. I have had no trouble obtaining neat printouts on my Star SG10 printer, including screen dumps. Even better results have been obtained using a screen dump ROM - the system seems to be quite compatible with these (it is also completely compatible with the Master 128 - so far anyway!).

A few minor niggles: the procedure to set up files of share prices is rather inflexible. I haven't yet found an easy way to repeat a large number of prices ( eg when forming files of historic data) - it is necessary to hammer away at the keys for ages. With so many new floats on the NZ market this can be a nuisance.

The programs are completely unprotected, as a "working disc" must be made immediately. It is also possible to get into the program and modify it for your own, particular requirements (I have added some soft key definitions and have vague plans for adapting some fancy statistical techniques and attaching these to the "charting" procedures). I think that Synergy's sales will benefit from this very open approach.

Here is an example of the output:



If anyone buys this package from Synergy, I would be quite happy to pass on (free) about 4 years' worth of price information for about 20 major companies. Contact G.Robertson, 24 Papanui St., Tokoroa, with a disc formatted in either DFS or ADFS, plus return postage.

*************************************************************

FOR SALE

In "as new" condition
One, BBC,A computer fitted with "View" wordprocessing ROM.
One, Zenith (B&W) V.D.U.
One, Mitsubishi DS/DD 5.25" disk drive.
Cables, Manuals and associated literatuee included.

Bargain at $1,800

Contact: W.H.ALINGTON (04) 768 495 after 7 pm.

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# Build your own Database Manager

## Beebug Filer Part 3 - a database for all.

In the September issue of Beeblet Neville Hudson introduced a major software project in the magazine to construct your own database program. This program is a reprint of BEEBUG'S program which was written by Mike Williams. Beebugsoft have kindly agreed to allow us to publish their very successful series on the Beebug Filer. Copyright remains with Beebugsoft.

This month we add the final enhancements to BEEBUG's own database program, include a useful sorting routine and a powerful search option.

We hope you have already started experimenting with the BEEBUG Filer that we have developed and described in the previous two issues. This month we add the remaining features, including an update routine, a sort, and a search facility. With all these extra features, our BEEBUG Filer should prove a really useful program that will have many practical uses.

All the additional instructions, and any existing lines that have to be changed as a consequence, are listed together at the end. We will give you detailed practical instructions later on how to update your own version of Filer.

### THE NEW FEATURES

If you have already tried using the program built up and described in the previous two articles, you will probably have suffered the inconvenience of being unable to change or update an existing record in your file without first deleting the record and then adding a new record. Because of the way Filer works this can be particularly bothersome if you want to modify a print format file, a feature we introduced last month.

A good, flexible update function is the first of the improvements to be described this month. At the same time, the opportunity has also been taken to make the 'ADD' function just as flexible.

No database system is complete without some means of sorting your records and this is the second new feature to be added. Although a relatively simple sort algorithm has been used, it has been implemented efficiently and is appropriate to the likely use of Filer. By sorting the file a second time it is also possible to sort a file on more than one field.

The third enhancement allows the user to select records from the file by means of a 'search string'. This then determines which records will subsequently be displayed or printed. The search facility is particularly powerful in Filer because of the way it capitalises on the Basic EVAL function. You will find that Filer allows searches that are much more complex and sophisticated than those in many commercial packages.

The extra features added to the BEEBUG Filer are rounded off with an 'extend' function. This will allow you to extend the length of an existing database if you did not allocate sufficient space initially. This may not be a feature that you will need very often, but could prove a lifesaver when you do.

This is the final part of the current series, but to assist you further we have prepared a set of notes giving some general advice to help you make the most of what we consider to be an excellent database program. For the more technically minded we have also included detailed program information (more on all this later).

## UPDATING RECORDS

A new UPDATE command has been added to Filer. In use, the command should always be followed by a record number, that of the one you want to change. The record specified will be displayed on the screen and the cursor positioned at the beginning of the first field. Any character typed in from the keyboard will replace the character at the current cursor position, and the cursor moved one character to the right. The cursor left and right keys may be used to move the cursor as required without changing the displayed data.

To insert additional characters, the f0 function key has been programmed to insert a space (visible as a background dot), which can then be filled with the new character. In addition, function key f1 has been set up to delete the character at the cursor position (effectively the opposite of f0). The delete key functions as normal, deleting the character to the left of the cursor position.

With the use of the two cursor keys described, and the f0 and f1, you will now be able to edit each field of a record in turn. Essentially, what you see on the screen is what will be stored in the file. Once a field has been edited, you can move onto the next field by pressing Return. Pressing Return alone will leave any field just as it is.

The update facility has been implemented by completely replacing the previous PROCadd and FNinput routines by two revised and expanded ones, PROCupdate and FNupdate1. The new routines are also used by the existing ADD command so that the full field editing capability is also there when you enter a record for the first time (also when creating a file).

The ability to update records and edit fields should save a lot of retyping, particularly where very long fields are being used, or you have many fields within a record. In addition, by using the same routines for both initial entry and subsequent updating of records, very little additional memory is used up by the new update routines.

## SORTING A DATABASE FILE

The BEEBUG Filer uses a 'Bubble Sort' to order the records in a file. This is based on the assumption that where order is important, you will wish to maintain a file in a particular order. Any new records are always appended to the end of a file and in these circumstances the Bubble Sort is a comparatively efficient way of moving the new records to their correct locations.

The obvious command, 'SORT', has been used to initiate sorting. This should be followed by the name of the field which is to be used as the key field in the sort (the file to be sorted should already be open). Remember that the BEEBUG Filer treats all information in files as being in the form of character strings, so a normal sort will be an alphabetic sort. However, there is provision to specify a numeric sort by adding '/N' immediately following the field name.

For example, if a file contains two fields, one called NAME and one called AGE then:

```
SORT NAME
```

would sort the file alphabetically by NAME while the command:

```
SORT AGE/N
```

would sort the file numerically by AGE. In both cases, records in the file will be sorted in ascending order. There is no provision to sort in descending order, though the program could be readily modified to do this (see technical notes).

Although the sort routine is designed to sort the records in a file using only a single keyfield, it is still possible to sort on more than one key by performing two sorts in succession.

For example, suppose the file referred to above had an additional field called FNAME (representing first name) then the two commands:

```
SORT FNAME
SORT NAME
```

would sort the records in the file in order of FNAME within NAME. Thus all the 'Browns' would be together but in order according to their first names.

Although the sort routine selected has been written as efficiently as possible, it will still take an appreciable amount of time to sort a file. There are ways by which this process can be semi-automated, described in the additional notes.

## SELECTIVE RETRIEVAL

One of the most useful features of any database system is the ability to select which records should be displayed or printed by searching through a file for those records which match up to some specification. For example we might want to select those people whose surnames begin with the letter 'W', or who are over 20 years of age. Sometimes quite complex searches are needed. We might in some file wish to select the records of all people with surnames between 'G' and 'S', who are between the ages of 21 and 40, and who live in the county of Kent. Given all the necessary information, Filer will cope even with something of that complexity.

The secret of Filer's power lies in its use of the EVAL function in BBC Basic. This is a most useful language device not often encountered in other versions of Basic. EVAL really does all the work for us which means that very little additional code is added to the original program.

To use the search facility it is first necessary to use the SELECT command to specify the criteria to be used in selecting records. We will call this the 'search string'. The SELECT command thus takes the form:

```
SELECT <search string>
```

We will give you examples of actual search strings in a moment. Once a search string has been specified, the DISPLAY and PRINT commands will only retrieve records from the file that match up to the search string. However, you can always return to the normal situation (all records retrieved) by entering:

```
SELECT ALL (or SELECT all)
```

Remember that commands like SELECT may always be abbreviated to a minimum of two letters and may be in upper or lower case.

## SPECIFYING A SEARCH STRING

A search string will usually refer to one or more field names. If we use the same kind of file, as an example, as we used in sorting, we can refer to fields NAME, FNAME and AGE. So we might say:

```
SELECT NAME>"J"
```

This would give us all the records where 'NAME' comes after the letter 'J' in the alphabet. We could easily make up a more complicated example:

```
SELECT NAME>"J" AND NAME<"S"
```

This would give us all the records with names between 'J' and 'S'.

When constructing a search string it is important to remember that within any Filer database, all information is treated and stored as a string of characters. Thus in the examples above the string constants are enclosed in quotes. If we wanted to perform a numerical comparison then we must convert from string to number format ourselves. For example:

```
SELECT VAL(AGE)>=21
```

This would select all records where the value of the 'AGE' field is greater than, or equal to, the number 21. In some ways it is like writing instructions in a version of Basic where the only variables are string variables.

Other Basic functions can be used as well, just as long as the search string can be evaluated to TRUE or FALSE (literally zero or non-zero).

For example suppose we want to search for all records where the first name contains the letter 'R'. We could do this by writing:

```
SELECT INSTR(FNAME,"R")
```

The INSTR function (see the User Guide page 280) allows one string (given first) to be searched for one or more characters (given second). The result is either 0 (FALSE) if not found, or a value greater than 0 (TRUE) if it is.

Indeed, the search string can be any expression which can be evaluated by the EVAL function to give a value which can be interpreted as either TRUE or FALSE. The search string is evaluated for each record and only those records for which the result is TRUE are displayed and printed.

Because of this we can construct some novel if less useful search strings. How about this:

```
SELECT ASC(NAME)>GET
```

Now GET is a Basic function which will produce the ASCII value of the next character typed in at the keyboard. The ASC function will give us the ASCII value of the first character of NAME in each record. Thus whether a record is selected or not depends on how the first character of NAME compares with a key pressed on the keyboard AT THAT TIME. Thus the search can actually be made to change as the program works through the file.

The possibilities are almost endless, limited only by your own ingenuity. You are responsible, however, for making sure you get the syntax of any search string correct. Because this is evaluated by Basic, the BEEBUG Filer can only intercept any error message generated by Basic, display this on the screen and wait for your next command. Any data files will remain open and no serious damage is likely to occur. Watch out particularly for 'No such variable'. You may well have made a mistake with a field name so that Filer cannot recognise it.

## EXTENDING YOUR DATA FILE

With the best of intentions you may well find that you create a data file smaller than you eventually need. When this happens you can use the EXTEND command to extend your file. The format of the command is simply:

```
EXTEND <filename>
```

You will be asked to specify the new file size and the file will then be extended to its new length if this is possible. The file then remains open for further use.

Any error messages, such as 'Can't extend' or 'Disk full' will be reported and the command abandoned. The 'Can't extend' message will occur if the datafile is followed by another file on disc. Copying the file to another disc or removing the following file will usually allow the extension to take place. You will need to use the normal DFS commands for this file management.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

To help you get the most out of the BEEBUG Filer, we have prepared a set of notes giving more technical information as well as a concise description of each command. It also includes a description of each function and procedure used, and a list of the principal variables. This is intended primarily for those with some programming knowledge who may wish to modify the published program. However, we have also included addition guidance on making the best use of many of the features of the BEEBUG Filer database.

The Filer notes are available on receipt of an A5 self addressed envelope. Please send this to 'BEEBUG Filer', BBC/Acorn Computer User Group NZ Inc, P.O. Box 9592, Wellington.

## ADDING THE NEW ROUTINES

Type in the new, or amended, instructions listed below and save them temporarily to disc using the *SPOOL command (see User Guide page 402). Then load into memory the combined parts 1 and 2 from the previous two articles, delete lines 3600 to 4320 (and line 5260) and append the new instructions using *EXEC. The resulting program can then be saved ready for use as FILER. Basic 1 users should ensure OPENUP in line 3260 is replaced by OPENIN.

Remember, when typing in the additions, to avoid any unnecessary spaces, in order to conserve space. Although the complete program will run with PAGE at its default setting of &1900, you may find it better to lower PAGE to &1400 first (PAGE=&1400 <Return>). Don't lower PAGE below &1400 as buffer space is required here by the data files that BEEBUG Filer deals with.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

```
************************************************************

1050 delete%=0:search$="-1"
1100 DATA 14
1170 DATA UPDATE,SORT,SELECT,EXTEND
1560 INPUT LINE"-> " command$
1660 IF C=4 THEN PROCupdate(pm$,0)
1730 IF C=11 THEN PROCupdate(pm$,1)
1740 IF C=12 THEN PROCsort(pm$)
1750 IF C=13 THEN PROCselect(pm$)
1760 IF C=14 THEN PROCextend(pm$)
2600 PRINTTAB(5,2)"Number of records:":
     recn=VAL(FNupdate1("",24,2,4,"."))
2640 REPEAT:f=VAL(FNupdate1("",63,2,2,".")):UNTIL  f<=maxf
2720 field$(I)=FNupdate1("",21,3+I,12,".")
2760 REPEAT:width%(I)=VAL(FNupdate1("",56,3+I,2,".")):
     UNTIL width%(I)<=64
3260 F$=p$:F=OPENUP(F$):format%=0:search$="-1"
4960 PROCread(I,0):IF EVAL(search$)=0 THEN 5000
4970 IF flag THEN PROCprint1(I) ELSE PROCdisplay1(I)
5240 PROChead(67,0,"Record: ",n,4)
6020 IF NOT open% ENDPROC
6180 CLOSE#F:open%=0:format%=0:PROCwindow1:CLS:PROCwindow2
6590 PROCwindow1:PROCinv(1):PRINTTAB(19,0)"Format: ";p$:
     PROCinv(0):PROCwindow2
8000 DEF PROCupdate(p$,flag)
8020 LOCAL I,n:n=VAL(p$)
8040 IF NOT open% THEN PRINT "No file open":ENDPROC
8060 IF flag AND rec<2 THEN PRINT"No records in
file":ENDPROC
8080 IF flag AND (n<1 OR n>rec-1) THEN
     PRINT"No such record":ENDPROC
8100 IF flag=0 AND rec>recn THEN PRINT"File full":ENDPROC
8120 PROCwindow1:PROCrecord:IF flag THEN PROCread(n,0):
     PROCdisplay1(n)
8140 IF flag=0 PROChead(67,0,"Record: ",rec,4):n=rec
8160 FOR I=1 TO f:IF flag ch$=record$(I,0) ELSE ch$=""
8180 record$(I,0)=FNupdate1(ch$,13,L*(I-1)+1,width%(I),"."):
     NEXT I
8200 PROCwindow2:
     IF FNask("Confirm (Y/N): ")<3 PROCwrite(n,0):
     IF flag=0 rec=rec+1:PTR#F=0:PRINT#F,rec
8220 PROCwindow1:PROChead(58,0,"",rec-1,4):PROCwindow2
8240 ENDPROC
8260 :
8400 DEF FNupdate1(ch$,x,y,w,p$)
8420 LOCALc,p:p=1:*FX4,1
8440 IF ch$="" ch$=STRING$(w,p$)
8460 VDU31,x,y:*FX225,140
8480 REPEAT:c=GET
```

```
 8500 IF c=127 AND p>1 VDU8,ASCp$,8:
      ch$=LEFT$(ch$,p-2)+p$+MID$(ch$,p):p=p-1
 8520 IF c=136 AND p>1 VDU8:p=p-1
 8540 IF c=137 AND p<w VDU9:p=p+1
 8560 IF c=140 AND p<=w
      ch$=LEFT$(LEFT$(ch$,p-1)+p$+MID$(ch$,p),w):
      PRINTTAB(x,y)ch$:VDU31,x+p-1,y
 8580 IF c=141 ch$=LEFT$(ch$,p-1)+MID$(ch$,p+1)+p$:
      PRINTTAB(x,y)ch$:VDU31,x+p-1,y
 8600 IF c>31 AND c<127 AND p<=w
      ch$=LEFT$(ch$,p-1)+CHR$(c)+MID$(ch$,p+1):
      VDU c:p=p+1
 8620 UNTIL c=13:*FX4,0
 8640 *FX225,0
 8660 =ch$
 8680 :
 8800 DEF PROCsort(p$)
 8820 LOCAL I,J,K,K1,R,flag,t$:I=2:t$="":format%=0
 8840 PROCwindow1:PROCinv(1):
      PRINTTAB(19,0)STRING$(20," "):PROCwindow2
 8860 IF NOT open% THEN PRINT"No file open":ENDPROC
 8880 IF rec<3 THEN PRINT"Nothing to sort":ENDPROC
 8900 IF p$="" THEN PRINT"No field given":ENDPROC
 8920 J=INSTR(p$,"/"):IF J t$=MID$(p$,J+1,1):
      p$=LEFT$(p$,J-1)
 8940 IF t$="N" t$="VAL" ELSE
      IF t$<>""PRINT"Wrong switch":ENDPROC
 8960 t$=t$+"(record$(R,K))<"+t$+"(record$(R,K1))"
 8980 R=0:REPEAT:R=R+1:UNTIL p$=field$(R) OR R=f
 9000 IF R=f AND p$<>field$(R) PRINT"No such field":ENDPROC
 9020 PRINT"Sorting file ";F$;" on field ";
      p$;" - please wait"
 9040 REPEAT:K=0:flag=-1:PROCread(rec-1,K)
 9060 FOR J=rec-1 TO I STEP -1:K1=(K+1)MOD2:PROCread(J-1,K1)
 9080 IF EVAL(t$) THEN PROCwrite(J-1,K):PROCwrite(J,K1):
      flag=0:ELSE K=(K+1)MOD2
 9100 NEXT J:I=I+1
 9120 UNTIL flag:ENDPROC
 9140 :
10000 DEF PROCselect(p$)
10020 LOCAL I,p
10040 IF p$="" PRINT"No selection given":ENDPROC
10060 IF p$="ALL" OR p$="all" search$="-1":ENDPROC
10080 IF NOT open% PRINT"No file open":ENDPROC
10100 FOR I=1 TO f
10120 REPEAT:p=INSTR(p$,field$(I))
10140 IF p p$=LEFT$(p$,p-1)
      +"FNstrip(record$("+STR$(I)+",0),"+CHR$34+"."
      +CHR$34+")"+MID$(p$,p+LEN(field$(I)))
10160 UNTIL p=0
10180 NEXT I:search$=p$
10200 ENDPROC
```

```
10220 :
10400 DEF PROCextend(p$)
10420 LOCAL n
10440 PROCclose:PROCopen(p$):IF NOT open% ENDPROC
10460 PROCwindow1
10480 PRINTTAB(5,2)!Current file size: ";recn;" records"
10500 PRINTTAB(5,4)"New file size:":REPEAT:
      n=VAL(FNupdate1("",20,4,4,".")):UNTIL n>recn
10520 PROCwindow2
10540 PTR#F=EXT#F:PTR#F=256+n*recs:PRINT#F,".":recn=n
10560 PTR#F=0:PRINT#F,rec,recn:PROCheader
10580 PRINT"File extended to ";recn;" records"
10600 ENDPROC
10620 :
20240 IF open% THEN PROCinv(1):PRINT STRING$(80," "):
      PRINTTAB(1,0)"File: "F$:
      PROChead(39,0,"Number of records: ",rec-1,4)
20400 DEF PROCwindow1:IF w=2 X=POS:Y=VPOS
20420 VDU28,0,19,79,3:w=1:ENDPROC
20460 VDU31,X,Y:w=2:ENDPROC
31012 IF ERR>189 AND ERR<208 REPORT:PRINT:GOTO140
31015 IF ERL=4960 PROCheader:REPORT:PRINT" in SELECT":
      GOTO 140
```

* * *

Please also correct the following bugs:

```
21620 REPEAT:I=I+1:UNTIL p$=field$(I) OR I=f
21640 IF I=f AND p$<>field$(I) THEN =" " ELSE =record$(I,R)
```

## FUTURE FILER ITEMS

The following Filer articles will be published in the near future:

1. Mail-Merge with Filer
2. Beebug Filer goes Graphic
3. Filer Accounts Option

* * *

# *DR WHO AND THE MINES OF TERROR*

reviewed by Chris Robertson, aged 14

One of the latest releases from Micro Power is *Doctor Who and the Mines of Terror,* supposed to be the sequel to the famous *Castle Quest. Doctor Who* is so big that you need not only a disc or cassette but a rom as well! Because of this, and its price (more expensive than *Elite,* would you believe?!), I was expecting great things.

At the beginning, the game looks impressive. The loading screen displays a picture of *Doctor Who* and plays a passable version of the Doctor Who theme. So far so good.

The game itself bears little resemblance to *Castle Quest* beyond the controls. The graphics are better, apart from some minor faults, but what happened to the sound effects?? Apart from the occasional beep, nothing at all is heard. Also, the game is considerably slower than *Castle Quest.*

The area where *Doctor Who* really scores over *Castle Quest* is in size. In *Doctor Who,* unlike its predecessor, you are seldom stuck for new places to visit. It is relatively easy to find the lift shaft, and once there, a whole new world is opened up. The graphics in the factory areas are very complex and spectacular. The sheer size of the factory and mining complex is too great to take in all at once.

The basic idea of the game is good. However, in their eagerness to improve on *Castle Quest,* Micro Power have left out a lot of the features that made *Castle Quest* unique in the first place. Gone is the wonderful scrolling technique. The sound effects are ridiculously inferior.

The more you look, the more minor shortcomings you uncover (for example, you can only save your game on cassette). And in spite of its huge size, it is nowhere near as challenging as *Castle Quest.* It took me about a week to complete.

What is left is a fairly average game. Its size and graphics make it better than most games on the market, but it doesn't compare with games such as *Elite, Castle Quest* and *Revs.* At such a high price, it isn't really worth the money.

If you haven't already bought *Castle Quest,* don't think that *Doctor Who* will be an effective substitute. You are better off buying the original. For those of you who have *Castle Quest* and have a lot of money to waste, *Doctor Who* would serve fairly well, but don't go out of your way to buy it.

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# SNOW

by Neil Gordon.

The following program of a snowy white Christmas Scene is from a program originally provided by Tony K. It would be ideally adapted for a suitable sound accompaniament but this is left to the reader.

Apologies for the meaningless variable names and the paucity of comments but the original program had been highly compressed ....

```
 10 REM Snowy Christmas scene
 20 REM Original program - Tony K.
 30 REM Adapted by Neil Gordon.
 70 :
 80 MODE2
 90 VDU 23;10,32,0;0;0;
100 e%=200
110 DIM A%(2),a%(2),Y%(159)
120 FOR I%=0 TO 2
130 READ A%(I%),a%(I%)
140 NEXT I%
150 DATA 200,0, 170,170, 150,320
160 :
170 PROC0
180 PROC1(640,400,150,200,3)
190 PROC2(640,200,30,196)
200 PROC3:PROC4:PROC5:PROC6:PROC7
210 END
220 :
230 DEF PROC1(b%,c%,a%,g%,h%)
240 VDU 29,b%;c%;
250 GCOL 0,2
260 FOR d%=0 TO h%-1
270 MOVE -A%(d%),a%(d%)
280 MOVE A%(d%),a%(d%)
290 PLOT 85,0,a%(d%)+g%
300 NEXT d%
310 VDU 26
320 ENDPROC
330 :
340 DEF PROC2(b%,c%,A%,a%)
350 VDU 29,b%;c%;
360 GCOL 0,1
370 MOVE -A%,0
380 MOVE A%,0
390 PLOT 85,-A%,a%
400 PLOT 85,A%,a%
410 VDU 26
420 ENDPROC
430 :
440 DEF PROC0
450 VDU 29,0;e%;
460 FOR I%=1 TO 50
470 A%=RND(1280)
480 i%=RND(200)-100
490 K%=RND(40)
500 S%=20+RND(20)
510 C%=RND(7)
520 FOR Y%=0 TO (1020-e%) DIV S%
530 GCOL 0,8+(Y%+C%AND7)
540 MOVE A%+S%*Y%DIV1020,S%*Y%-K%
550 PLOT 1,0,16
560 NEXT Y%
570 NEXT I%
580 VDU 26
590 ENDPROC
600 :
610 DEFPROC7
620 H=TIME
630 REPEAT
640 FOR I%=15 TO 8 STEP -1
650 PROC8
660 *FX19
670 VDU 19,I%,7;0;
680 VDU 19,((I%+1)AND 15)OR 8,0;0;
690 NEXT I%
700 UNTIL TIME>H+6000:REM 60 Secs.
710 ENDPROC
720 :
730 DEF PROC8
740 GCOL 0,7
750 X%=RND(160)-1
760 Y%(X%)=Y%(X%)+1
770 PLOT 69,X%*8,Y%(X%)+RND(16)-8
780 X%=RND(1280)-1
790 Y%=RND(1024)-1
800 IF POINT(X%,Y%)=2 THEN
    PLOT 69,X%,Y%
810 ENDPROC
```

```
820 :
830 DEF PROC6
840 FOR X%=0 TO 159
850 Y%(X%)=e%
860 NEXT X%
870 Y%=1024
880 FOR X%=640 TO 640-A%(0) STEP
    -8
890 f%=X% DIV 8
900 REPEAT
910 Y%=Y%-4
920 Q%=POINT(X%,Y%)
930 UNTIL Q%=2 OR Y%<0
940 Y%(f%)=Y%
950 Y%(160-f%)=Y%
960 NEXT X%
970 ENDPROC
980 :
990 DEF PROC3
1000 GCOL 0,135
1010 VDU 24,0;0;1272;e%;
1020 CLG
1030 VDU 26
1040 ENDPROC
1050 :
1060 DEF PROC5
1070 GCOL 0,7
1080 FOR I%=0 TO 2
1090 GCOL 0,-7*(I%<>1)
1100 MOVE I%*8,I%*4
1110 DRAW I%*8,1020-I%*4
1120 DRAW 1272-I%*8,1020-I%*4
1130 DRAW 1272-I%*8,I%*4
1140 DRAW I%*8,I%*4
1150 NEXT I%
1160 VDU 24,24;0;1272-24;1020;
1170 ENDPROC
1180 :
1190 DEF PROC4
1200 B%=800
1210 GCOL 0,7
1220 PROCZ(B%,250,50)
1230 PROCZ(B%,320,20)
1240 GCOL 0,5
1250 MOVE B%-20,340
1260 PLOT 1,40,0
1270 MOVE B%-10,340
1280 PLOT 0,20,0
1290 PLOT 81,-20,10
1300 PLOT 81,20,0
1310 GCOL 0,0
1320 PLOT 69,B%-8,330
1330 PLOT 69,B%+8,330
1340 PLOT 69,B%,320
1350 FOR Y%=230 TO 270 STEP 20
1360 PLOT 69,B%,Y%
1370 PLOT 69,B%,Y%+4
1380 NEXT
1390 COLOUR 5 : COLOUR 135
1400 VDU 5
1410 MOVE 640-32*5,150
1420 PRINT "MERRY";
1430 MOVE 640-32*9,70
1440 PRINT "CHRISTMAS";
1450 VDU 4
1460 PRINT TAB(0,31);
1470 COLOUR 7 : COLOUR 128
1480 ENDPROC
1490 :
1500 DEF PROCZ(b%,c%,R%)
1510 VDU 29,b%;c%;
1520 MOVE R%,0
1530 FOR G=0 TO 2*PI+RAD(10) STEP
     RAD(10)
1540 MOVE 0,0
1550 PLOT 85,R%*COS(G),R%*SIN(G)
1560 NEXT
1570 VDU 26
1580 ENDPROC
```

**FOR SALE:** BBC Model B, 1.2 OS, BASIC 2 $750 ono

Includes speech chip and lots of software, books and manuals.

Contact: Neville Tomlinson
PO Box 9028
CHRISTCHURCH
Phone: (03) 228622

THE COMPUTER TERMINAL
C & D FRANCE, 257 HINEMOA ST. BIRKENHEAD, AUCKLAND 419-0543

3rd November 1986

The Editor
*Beeblet*,
The BBC/Acorn User Group of NZ Inc.,
P.O.Box 9592,
WELLINGTON.

I read with dismay Neil Gordon's letter in the October issue relating to MASTER COMPACT AND MASTER PRICING. I appreciate that Mr Gordon writes from a User Group perspective but think a little more care should have been taken to draw accurate comparisons.

As a retailer of BBC's for 2 years I find the remarks biased and thoroughly unfair as it takes no cognisance of the costs of running a New Zealand warehouse, providing a margin for the New Zealand retailers like myself (Some of us pride ourselves on the service we give our buyers!!). Also despite criticisms, sometimes justified, of the service work they do, at least it is there and does the job in New Zealand.

I would like to address these issues myself and hope that you will publish them to give people a little balance. It might also give some members a better understanding of the relative instability of computer retailing in New Zealand.

First things first. GST should have increased the price by about $35.00 per thousand if I am to keep the same dollar profit per computer. After all a 10% tax on wholesale price is definitely *NOT* the same as a 10% GST tax on the retail price. So there is some justification straight away for the increase. The fact that Commodore and Amstrad, etc., haven't increased their prices is simply because retailers are SILLY enough (Fairs fair, this is my perspective!!) to accept their suppliers suggested pricing.

Neil also mentions the value of the pound. Out of interest I note that a change from .35 to .32 in the pound/dollar conversion adds $125 to the #470 price Neil mentions!! Again, not a big thing but it adds to the difficulty of making fair comparisons.

With just those 2 examples I have covered up to $195 swing in price at wholesale point.

One of the more unfortunate problems for the COMPACT is that it is 2 biggish boxes NOT including the monitor. The AIRFEIGHT on this is about $200 (I guess) to get it to New Zealand. Again, this is at wholesale; Barsons have to work out their profit and then I, as a retailer, have to add mine.

You probably need to take real notice of a figure none of us has access to. What margin do Barsons get from Acorn in the U.K? In the early days I know it was lousy to say the least! It is a commonly accepted fact by Acorn dealers in New Zealand that people like Watford Electronics get better trade terms than Barsons because they move a lot more product than the whole New Zealand market. I suspect it is not much different under Olivetti.

The Amstrad's and Commodore's of the world are box movers who work on smaller overheads and large bulk buying by their international distributors. Also they are drop shipping direct from Taiwan (in Amstrad's case) which greatly lowers the costs of freight.

I think I have said enough to show that there are just too many variables uncovered by Neil's remarks for his figures to have real validity.

I wonder if you can really understand the dismay dealers throughout New Zealand felt when the Users Group price was struck at such a low rate. As a dealer I argued long and bitterly with Barsons over that price; regrettably I lost!! The Group price of $1545 only gave me a Gross Profit of 11%. To keep my business running I must have a Gross Profit of at least 25%. That will give me an income equivalent to a lower-middle management civil servant. If I survive in this business, I will also have the equity that that provides, but it is hardly a fortune when one considers the risks in computer retailing (How many good computer retailers left in Wellington these days?).

As a Special group, therefore, you were given a superb special offer by Barsons and the Dealer network. Have you as a group had the courtesy to thank Barsons for that deal yet? To see remarks like Neil's so thoughtlessly published one would think that Barsons have done nothing but try to screw you from dat one! I have a suspicion that biting the hand that feeds you after the special deal was not very clever!!? Any comment?? When I look at the comparative size of Barsons, Commodore, Grandstand, etc., today as compared to 3 years ago there is little doubt who has profited the most; and it is not Barsons.

Lets look at what benefits a "good" retailer provides his customers for the "excessive" charges Mr Gordon claims we charge. As above, one can interpret these figures lots of ways but I will give the normal retail values wherever possible.

With most of the MASTER's I have sold that have not been affected by the Group special prices, or Barson special deals, a number of items are supplied free. I always give 4 or more discs with the machine. These are a good brand name disc of 80 track DS/DD quality retailing at the $9-$10 mark. Any monitor and printer cables are supplied free (normal retail for both would be approx. $80 in Auckland). Often they would get a book that will suit their greatest need: a guide to VIEW or a childs programming book. Generally, over the last year, the average buyer has received about $120-$150 worth of items gratis with the micro.

All my clients have access to me at the shop for help and assistance throughout the years they own that computer. That is a free service at all times. They receive a disk with a compilation of the best public domain games (about 60 odd on the ADFS) with their MASTER. This is menu driven, and grouped into educational, games, adventure, etc. Their are hundreds of hours of my own effort gone into this disc. How do you value that? Sure, the User Groups can provide this service, but I find they seldom do.

The practicalities of running a club means that new owners seldom get the attention they would like to have unless they are aggressive types who are always willing to put up their hands!! This is especially true for new computer owners who are confused and unsure over those first months of ownership. I think all you "User Group hackers" should go back in time and see if you can be humble enough to remember just how ignorant you were when you bought your first computer. The point here is that most first time owners find User Groups way over their heads. The most common remark first timers make to me of User Groups is that "They make us feel ignorant and stupid".

The "good" retailer therefore has a vital role to play. He gets people going who, in a years time, are ready for the User Groups. Most of my clients would have at least 4 hours in the shop with me from the time of buying until about 8 weeks later when they start having to ask for help less and less. Generally, however, it is about 3 months before I stop seeing them in the shop regularly. During that first month, people who buy from me have access to me at home for any sensible enquiry. How do you place a value (again remember I am talking of NEW buyers) on that time and help. Lets keep it to the average of 4 hours. At $25 per hour, there is another $100 dollars to take off the difference between Mr Gordon's price and mine.

Then there are the unvalued little things. If anything serious goes wrong, who fixes it, and more important, how long does it take. My clients are given use of another MASTER while theirs is out of service if they need it.

Now how about that battery problem for the MASTER. All my owners were contacted within 48 hours and I fitted them for them unless they wanted to try. No charge was made for this, and in two cases a home visit was made because they didn't change the leads quickly enough. The contents of the CMOS RAM were lost and a complete reset was necessary to get going again. Again for gurus like Mr Gordon, that sort of thing is a breeze. For my new owners, that was a mystery, still is, and will be for a year yet. I wonder if Mr Gordon has received his official Battery pack yet!

It seems to me to be unwise to suggest that just any Tom Dick or Harry should order in a MASTER from the UK. For the educated, that may be O.K., but it is very misleading for the User Group to agree with that without sensible riders attached to it.

The whole point here, to me, is that I would like to see a bit of balance in your articles when they edge into areas such as this. Being a User Group it is incumbent on you to show a sense of responsibility to your readership. The article did not do that!

I am a bitter opponent of direct buying, at any level. Firstly: for my own salvation!!. Secondly: it only really serves the need of the highly computer literate minority.

In the long term I believe all parties are losers if there is not a good working relationship between, wholesaler (with all his warts), retailer(with all his greed!!), and user groups (with all their sense of superiority!!). You are doing your best to destroy that? Please think again.

I hope that my letter, where I have that nastiest of reasons, a "profit motive", has a better sense of balance. Any User Group member is welcome in my shop to continue this discussion at any time. Or they may attend our North Shore User Group and talk it over.

Yours sincerely,

Signed

Chris France.

# SERVICE AGENTS AND DEALERS

The NZ network of service and dealers for the BBC is as follows:

### AUCKLAND:

Telephone

Sales and Service-
Barson Computers NZ Ltd,
1 Ngaire Avenue, 504-049
Auckland 3 504-631

John Gilbert Electronics
75 Parnell Rise,
Parnell. 390-839

Other Dealers-
Computer Terminal
Hinemoa St 419-053

Neil Gladden
Database Services
8 Kowhatu Rd

K' Road Computers (Computability)
Pitt St. 395-660

Whitcoulls Ltd
312 Broadway, Newmarket 543-129

### BLENHEIM:

Whitcoulls Ltd
30 Market St Nth 88-039

### CHRISTCHURCH:

Sales and Service-
Aftron Computers Ltd
161 Barbados St. 797-445

Dealers-
TVNZ Enterprises Shop,
P.O. Box 1945

Whitcoulls Ltd
111 Cashel St 794-580
Canterbury Centre, High St 50-159
201 Manchester St, 787-561

### DUNEDIN:

Whitcoulls Ltd
143 George St. 774-120

### GORE:

Lyndon McEntee,
Educomp, PO Box 255 7365

### HAMILTON:

Whitcoulls Ltd
175 Victoria St. 82-174

### HASTINGS:

Telephone

Whitcoulls Ltd
113 East Heretaunga St. 84-394

### INVERCARGILL:

Whitcoulls Ltd
66 Dee St. 86-063

### NEW PLYMOUTH:

Winston Electronics
26 Berwyn Ave. 298-7769

### PALMERSTON NORTH:

Whitcoulls Ltd
Broadway Mall 75-773

### TAURANGA:

Sales and Service-
Graham Cheer

Whitcoulls Ltd
97 Grey St 87-738

### TE PUKE:

May & Associates
PO Box 345. 83-257

### TIMARU:

Whitcoulls Ltd
182 Stafford St. 88-185

### WANGANUI:

Whitcoulls Ltd
148 Victoria Ave. 54-193

### WELLINGTON:

Service-
APTEC
(Applied Engineering and Technology)
3 Halleys Lane 850-811
850-800

Dealers-
Whitcoulls Ltd
Lambton Quay 721-921

Micro Interface (NZ) Ltd
PO Box 14-441
Baycourt, Kilbirnie 873-451
882-444

10.12.86

# USE OF MODEMS

by Neil Orton, Hamilton

How does being able to call anywhere in New Zealand and Australia for 38.5 cents per minute sound? This is possible with the Post Office STARNET.

STARNET is short for STore And Retrieve NETwork, and is achieved through 'electronic mailboxes'. Mail is stored in the 'boxes' and you can Scan, Read or Reply next time you use your mailbox. Newsletters, programs, and even orders for software can be sent throught the mailboxes. These mailboxes are available throughout the world.

The charges for STARNET are:

| | |
|---|---|
| Once only registeation fee Can be reduced if several people join as a group (eg a local User group) | $ 115-50 |
| Monthly rental for the mailbox | $ 2-20 per month<br>$ 26-40 per annum |
| To send a screen full of data to anywhere in New Zealand or Australia | 38.5 cents |
| To send a screen full of data to anywhere outside New Zealand or Australia | 82 cents |

A screenful of data is 1700 characters, approximately.

All prices include GST.

Auckland, Hamilton, Tokoroa, Wellington and Invercargill are investigating this exciting idea.

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EDITORIAL COMMENT: The Waikato User Group is now coordinating the use of STARNET for all BBC/ACORN User Groups. Application forms have been sent to most User Groups, either directly by the Waikato Group or, on behalf of the Waikato Group, by the Editorial Committee of *Beeblet*. It is hoped that it will be possible to add the use of STARNET (to the present use of tapes or discs) as a means of making contributions to *Beeblet* from early 1987.

Any User Group requiring information should contact either the Waikato or National User Groups, or the Post Office.

Pace Micro Technology

COMMSTAR II

INFORMATION

Videotex/ASCII communications software and hardware

**COMMSTAR II**

| | |
|---|---|
| BBC B, +, MASTER | $115 |

**CHIT – CHAT**

| | |
|---|---|
| IBM-PC/XT/AT, Apricot PC/Xi<br>Sharp MZ-5600, Wang PC,<br>Sanyo 550/555 | $360 |

**MODEMS**

| | |
|---|---|
| MD312: manual 300, 1200/75 | $380 |
| NIGHTINGALE: auto-dial | $475 |

Prices include GST

DATABASE SERVICES

P.O. Box 94, Auckland. Telephone Auckland (09) 665-540

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STOP PRESS **WANTED TO SELL** STOP PRESS

Patrick Cain of 9 Puriri St, Lower Hutt, (04) 698 330 AHours has the following cassette based games (Electron Versions):

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Repton 3 | $35 | Percy Penguin | $15 |
| Repton 2 | $15 | Steve Davis Snooker | $15 |
| Mr Wiz | $15 | The Way of the Exploding Fist | $20 |

(Electron + BBC):

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Boffin and Boffin 2 | $20 |
| Jet Boot Jack | $15 | Kissin' Kousins | $15 |
| Frak (Elk Vers.) | $20 | Combat Lynx | $20 |

(Master Compact):

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Terrormolinos | $20 | Karate Combat | $20 |

---

BBC Model B (2 yrs old), with VIEW, ADFS and a SS 40 Track Disc Drive and 10 discs. Complete with User Guides for the BBC, Disc System, and VIEW. Price $ 1200 ono.

Please contact:

Paul Bell of 18 Alamein Ave., Belmont, Auckland, (09) 454056

# WEAVING

## ASSISTANCE USING COMPUTERS

Mr Bill Miller of Tauranga has advised that his wife is a very keen weaver and that he has been trying to find programs to help her in designing and her calculations for setting of warps.

With his letter he enclosed a copy of an interesting article from the September/October issue of an American magazine *Handwoven,* titled 'Choosing Software for Soft-wear Work', which prompted him to enquire as to whether any of our User group members have any programs that he could copy or purchase that relate to the various aspects of weaving. He specifically mentions those that help with design, such as a 'drawdown' program.

The general gist of the article is the advice - Ideally one should choose the software first, and then buy a computer system that will run it. Although this may be true to some extent, it would be most surprising if the excellent graphics capabilities of the BBC Computer were not up with the best within the capabilities of the memory available.

Bill is aware that programs are available for the Commodore, and programs are published from time to time in *Handwoven,* but these are for the Apple. Is there someone, preferably in the Tauranga area, who might be able to convert such programs to BBC Basic for him to run on a Model B? His Beeb is supported by an 80 track disc drive and a Epson compatible printer.

Any help or advice would be appreciated.

Bill's address is 7A Kiriwai Place
Matua
TAURANGA.

<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<< >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

What is your hobby or interest?

Can *Beeblet* help you to make contact with others with similar interests? You might also find that your programs or articles published in *Beeblet* may encourage others.

DO NOT assume that no-one else is interested. Use *Beeblet* as your forum.

# A Story of Jimmy Malone

Tony W.
Napier

Mr & Mrs Malone had a son,
Who their neighbours and friends all said,
Was born with a silver spoon in his mouth,
And a microchip in his head.

At ten his IQ was that of a genius,
Higher maths to him was no sweat.
He went on to computers, and quickly discovered,
What he thought was a marvellous jest.

One day at his doctors' surgery,
While the staff were having their tea.
He slipped in and selected a disc,
And loaded SYSDOC (Version 3).

The file of each patient came up on the screen,
And the lad with great diligence,
Used all his wiles to alter the files,
With far reaching and strange consequence.

One patient needed his tonsils removed,
But lost his appendix instead.
Another got spectacles, hearing aid too,
Though he'd only a bump on his head.

The file of 3 month old Kate said lumbago,
Though her only trouble was wind.
War veteran Sam - lost both legs in Vietnam,
Had to have ingrowing toe nails trimmed.

Old Mrs Smithers wasn't amused,
She was said to need a consultant.
But Michael McBride, he laughed till he cried,
When his file declared he was pregnant.

But the doctor was also a hacker,
And down at the keyboard he sat.
He made his computer examine its' files,
And list out the ones that were got at.

He corrected those wrong ones, then reasoned,
Who did it, wouldn't alter his own.
Therefore, list those unaltered files,
Only one! Young Jimmy Malone!!

I'll fix him, the doc said, now computer,
  Choose at random, three score or so ailments.
  Assign them to Jimmy and then let us try,
  To help this unfortunate patient.

Next day an ambulance stopped at Jims door,
  "What's wrong?" Mother squealed, "Is it flu?"
  "Everything but" the doc told her, and grinned,
  "He'll be back in a century or two."

Weeks later they let young Jimmy go home,
  Injected in all sorts of places.
  X-rayed and peered at, tested and leered at,
  By fifty different faces.

His father and mother weren't angry at all,
  They attributed it to boys' pranks.
  They bought him a Master and modem, and told him,
  Now try out your talents on banks!

---

# USELESS PROGRAM DEPARTMENT

```
  1 REM Another useless program
  2 REM But it runs faster than Jeff's
  3 REM Refer Beeblet V4 N8 (Sept 86)
  4 REM Peter Robinson, Hamilton
  9 MODE 1
 10 CLS
 20 T%=TIME
 30 REPEAT
 50 N%=N%+1
 60 UNTIL N%=500
 69 COLOUR1
 70 PRINTTAB(15,10);"GOT IT!!"
 79 COLOUR"
 80 PRINTTAB(5,15);"Peter's one took ";(TIME-T%)/100;
    " seconds!!"
100 END
```

What more can one say?

---

## TYPE APPROVAL OF DATA PRODUCTS BY THE POST OFFICE

The Engineer in Chief's Office of the Post Office has advised the User Group that the type approval process for data products has been reorganised. As a result, the testing of data products is now being carried out at the District Engineer's Office, New Plymouth. This change will affect type approval of the following:

- Facsimile Terminals
- Videotex Terminals
- Modems, including Public Switched Telephone Network modems, Leased line VF modems and Limited distance modems.
- Terminals with inbuilt modems.

Any enquiries relating to type approval of any the above equipment should be addressed to:

The Customer Services Engineer,
District Engineer's Office
P O Box 540
NEW PLYMOUTH

Telephone: (067) 80 989

Any devices for type approval testing should be submitted to the following address:

Delivery:
Supervising Technician
Telegraph and Data
Post Office
Church Lane
NEW PLYMOUTH

Mail:
Supervising Technician
Telegraph and Data
P O Box 540
NEW PLYMOUTH

* * *

## HALL OF FAME

Your attention is drawn to the comments about the Hall of Fame in the October issue of *Beeblet.*

In looking through loose papers from Bruce, I found a note from Matthew Davidson, who achieved a high score of 345,210 in the BBC version of Chuckie Egg. This represents a new record and will be recorded when the Hall of Fame is next published.

In the meantime, congratulations Matthew.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I certainly seem to have struck a raw nerve with my comments on Master pricing in the October Beeblet. If nothing else, it will be good if it serves to initiate discussion on the roles and responsibilities of the wholesaler, dealers and the User Group.

I would like to thank Chris France of "The Computer Terminal" in Birkenhead, Auckland, for his letter on the subject, which appears in this issue. All I can say is that it bodes well for the industry to have dealers who are prepared to offer that sort of support and I wholeheartedly recommend that he and other dealers like him should be supported by us. In defence of my earlier comments, I think many people are aware that the situation has been quite different in Wellington for the last year or so. However, with Neville Hudson having just opened up his premises in Kilbirnie we look forward to an enhanced level of dealer support in Wellington.

I must also thank Barsons for their generous offer of replacement battery packs for all of the early Masters, whether bought in New Zealand or not (again, see elsewhere in this Beeblet). It is very responsible of them to do this, even though they had no obligation to. I must have misunderstood the advice I was given by Tony K., and sincerely hope that this has not caused any trouble to anyone following my advice in turn.

Some titbits of the very latest news from England...
Acorn is well back in the black after the success of the Master Series. Master Compacts are widely available, being sold in such "High Street" shops as Dixons and Laskys. The Compact is being sold in Italy by Olivetti as the PC128S.
BBC Basic is now available through a third party for IBM PCompatibles (including, of course, the Master 512). Acorn have abandoned plans to produce a Master Scientific, feeling that the market is too small for it, and will instead promote the existing 32016 second processor, which has 1 mbyte of memory as opposed to the 512k of the Scientific.
AMS (the AMX mouse people) have a new ROM called MAX which provides WIMPS (Window, Icon, Menu and Pointer) access to the disk filing systems, etc. There are rumours of Acorn producing a RISC processor based machine early next year (the RISC processor is available for developers at the moment, but not as a commercial machine). The price will probably be rather high, though.

Finally, my best wishes to all for a very happy Christmas and the best of things in 1987.

Neil Gordon

# LOCAL USER GROUPS

The National User group has been reviewing the future of *Beeblet*, trying to determine whether it adequately fulfils a need, and if so, does it at the lowest possible cost. The latter is a most significant factor since production of *Beeblet* accounts for the largest share of the National User Group's bubget.

We would like to see *Beeblet* make a greater contribution for local User Groups and become more of a combined local magazine for all User Groups and take a lessor national role.

It is being suggested that interested local User Groups could become responsible for individual sections of every issue of *Beeblet*. These sections would be clearly headed as to the source User Group and could even be used as a means of discussion between User Groups.

The Waikato User Group's initiative in respect to STARNET is a good example of an issue which could have been promoted via *Beeblet*. In fact, it can be visualised that a healthy degree of rivalry between User Groups could enhance *Beeblet* considerably.

The writer has taken the opportunity to discuss the proposal with a number of local User Group Committee Chairmen/ Secretaries while discussing other matters with significant interest being shown. A number of details will need to be clarified, but probably the most important will be getting User Group contributions in such a way as to minimise the lead-time before the *Beeblet* is in the hands of the readers.

A local coordinator will be required for each group, preferably having modem capabilities so that transfer of prepared pages can be downloaded to the Editorial Committee via STARNET or toll. Using discs or tapes to transport User Group contributions would be acceptable providing allowance is made for the additional lead time involved.

If interest is shown in the concept the Editorial Committee is prepared to supply any guidelines required. A high degree of Editorial control would become the responsibility of each local User Group, where some responsibility would need to be taken particularly in respect to libelious or Copyright material.

Direct contributions to *Beeblet* would continue to be encouraged. It is hoped that User Groups participating will, in effect, contract to provide an agreed minimum number of pages each month, thus ensuring that *Beeblet* does get published for 11 months of the year.

The proposal is far from final, and ideas from User Groups would be welcome. However, *Beeblet* will continue to be published while adequate material is available. If individual User Groups wish to proceed now, all encouragement will be given.

It is likely that a degree of evolution will occur, which may be different for each participating User Group, and a degree of flexibility will be required.

Please give the proposal consideration. If you would like me to call to discuss the matter, just drop me a letter to my home address, and I will endeavour to call you back at an early opportunity - but late in the evening.

My address is 29 Bell St., TAWA; telephone (04) 32 6488

Graham Ellett.

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## WELLINGTON USER GROUP NEWS

### MEETINGS IN 1987

The first meeting for 1987 will be held at the Royal Society Rooms on Wednesday 21 January at 7.30 pm

Neville Hudson will be giving a talk on "Teaching Children using A BBC Micro", and a special invitation is given to members to bring their children to the meeting.

From February, meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of each month, ie, next meeting being Wednesday 11 February.

Workshops will be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month with the first being Wednesday 25 February.

### PICNIC:

Please note that this will be held at 5.30 pm at Khandallah Park on Monday 16 February. Anyone bringing their own BEEB should also bring their own engine/alternator set.

### FINAL MEETING 11.12.86

An address from Tony K, covering a wide range of topics including the development leading to the MASTER 512, the Domesday Project, RISC, and STARNET, provided a very interesting final evening, which concluded with the consumption of a range of goodies brought by the local members.

A pity that Waikato University was in such a hurry to get their Domesday earlier in the day....
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# DISCOUNT STOCKS

Confidential to Members. December 1986

We are currently holding stocks as follows:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Disks (box of 10) | 3M DSDD 5.25" | $40.00 + $1.00 pp |
| Tapes(packet of 20) | Tracer C10 | $25.00 + $2.00 pp |
| Tape(New Member) | EMI C30 | $ 5.00 |
| Paper fan-fold | M & P 1110/1 | $ 5.00 + $1.00 pp per 200 sheets |
| *Beeblet* Vol 1 | 5,6,10,11 | $ 0.50 each |
| *Beeblet* Vol 2 | all except May | $ 1.00 each |
| *Beeblet* Vol 3 | all | $ 1.50 each |
| *Beeblet* Copying 'out of stock' issues | | $ 3.00 each |

*Beeblet* Complete sets of Volumes One or Two:
Limited quantities at $15.00 per volume

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Beeblet* Covers | Pre-V-Dex(2 Vols) | $ 4.50 |
| Printer Ribbons | Logitec loops | $10.00 |
| Ribbon Ink | 100 ml bottle | $10.00 |

For Wellington members, these are available at both monthly meetings and workshops.

For other members, postage will be arranged on receipt of your cheque. Address requests to:

Discount Stocks
BBC/Acorn User Group of NZ, Inc
PO Box 9592
WELLINGTON

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## MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the User Group is on payment of an annual subscription from April to March. For the 1986/7 year it is: $30.00, plus $5.00 for Wellington members as a local branch levy, which entitles attendance at meetings as detailed on the back page and page 38. Joining or renewing members get all the back issues of the current year - those joining from 1 October may have half the annual subscription waived and only receive newsletters from 1 October.

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# USER GROUP MEETINGS

AUCKLAND: -2nd and 3rd Wednesday of each month at Social Club, Auckland Hospital, Grafton Road at 7.30pm. Contact John Buchanan (Secy), 13 Ohinau St, Remuera; David Wilkin (Pres), 29 Rose Camp Rd, Birkdale

North Shore: -last Wednesday of the month, 7.30pm, Salvation Army Hall, Glenfield Road, Glenfield ph Chris 419-0543 (wk)

CHRISTCHURCH: -fortnightly workshops, Monday 6.30pm at Hagley High School. ph. Michael 582-267.

DUNEDIN: -first Thursday of the month. Phone Martin McDowall 42-031

HAWKES BAY: -Alternative months Hastings and Napier. Contact Kendall: Napier 435-624, Major: Napier 447-729, Mitch: Hastings 85-395.

INVERCARGILL: -Phone Evan 330-444 Invercargill.

NELSON: -second Monday of the month, 7.30pm, Nelson Baptist Church, Bridge St. Contact Peter: Richmond 8975, Ken: Nelson 85-150, Richard: Richmond 8489.

PALMERSTON NORTH: -Phone Tom Skinner 83-009(wk)

ROTORUA: -Phone Ian 85-583 or Joan 81-536 (independent group)

TAUPO: -every second Wednesday, 7.00pm. Contact David 84-215 (h), 85-124 (wk).

TAURANGA: -every second Wednesday. ph. Chris & Jane 65-076.

TIMARU: -Phone Lloyd van der Krogt Timaru 61-412.

TOKOROA: -1st Friday of month, 7.30pm, Tokoroa High School. Contacts Don Fraser, 68-813 or Graeme Robertson, 65-346 Tokoroa.

WAIKATO: -first Monday of the month, 7.30pm, Waikato Tech Institute. Ph. Alison or John, Morrinsville 6695.

WELLINGTON: -*usually* second WEDNESDAY of the month, 7.30pm, Royal Society Lecture Theatre, Turnbull St, Thorndon. See Page 38, for more details.
-Workshops: fourth Wednesday of month, other details: ph. Don 848-235 or Mike 785-437.

OTHER CENTRES: -let us know and we will publish details here.

## *BEEBLET*

CONTRIBUTIONS: -most welcome. Listings should be sent in on tape or disc. (Tape - 2 copies, one at 300 baud please). Please include written explanation of listing; text and graphics only material welcome too.

DEADLINES: - For a particular issue, the last day for material is the last day of the month prior to publication.

ADVERTISING: - Rates are $20 per half page (camera ready), deadline as above.

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## MEMBERSHIP

For membership details, see page 39.

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